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(U 112)

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Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2002 7:23 PM
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Cc: Buchanan, James E; McElveen, James N; Kirsch, David E
Subject: PDVSA Operational Capacity & Amcits

According to the Embassy, refining is still operating at low levels.

- El Palito (for domestic market) is still down.
- Puerto La Cruz is operating at 50%.
- Paraguana complex is mostly closed, though part of the complex, Cardon, is operating at low level.
- Distribution and export are the problematic parts of the supply chain right now.
- Domestic shortages may be less worrisome than exports, which are at a standstill.
- [redacted] told Emboffs that there is 45 million barrels in storage

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Some companies are getting their Americans out:

- Citgo ordered US employees in Caracas to return to Tulsa
- Nabisco evacuated family members
- Colgate evacuating 38, including 5 Amcits.
- Airlines do not expect interruptions to flight schedules because of fuel shortages.